

duly organized by the government of the Virgin Islands be popularly elected for provisions that required the approval of the Secretary of the Interior for the establishment of any new department, agency, or other instrumentality by the Governor or the legislature, unless such department, agency, etc., was required by Federal law for participation in Federal programs.

1959—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 86-289 provided that the head of the department of law should be known as the attorney general of the Virgin Islands.

1957—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 85-224 provided for appointments to boards, authorities or commissions.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Amendment of provisions of section necessary to authorize the holding of an election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor on Nov. 3, 1970, effective Jan. 1, 1970, and all other amendments of provisions of section, unless otherwise expressly provided by Pub. L. 90-496, effective Jan. 4, 1971, see section 16 of Pub. L. 90-496, set out as a note under section 1591 of this title.

§ 1598. Omitted

CODIFICATION

Section, act July 22, 1954, ch. 558, §20(b), 68 Stat. 505, which related to compensation of the Government Secretary, department heads, and staffs of the Governor and Government Secretary, was superseded by section 10 of Pub. L. 90-496, Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 841, which amended section 1641 of this title. See Codification note set out under section 1641 of this title.

§ 1599. Transfer of functions from government comptroller for Virgin Islands to Inspector General, Department of the Interior

(a) Functions, powers, and duties transferred

The following functions, powers, and duties heretofore vested in the government comptroller for the Virgin Islands are hereby transferred to the Inspector General, Department of the Interior, for the purpose of establishing an organization which will maintain a satisfactory level of independent audit oversight of the government of the Virgin Islands:

(1) The authority to audit all accounts pertaining to the revenue and receipts of the government of the Virgin Islands, and of funds derived from bond issues, and the authority to audit, in accordance with law and administrative regulations, all expenditures of funds and property pertaining to the government of the Virgin Islands including those pertaining to trust funds held by the government of the Virgin Islands.

(2) The authority to report to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of the Virgin Islands all failures to collect amounts due the government, and expenditures of funds or uses of property which are irregular or not pursuant to law.

(b) Scope of authority transferred

The authority granted in paragraph (a) of this section shall extend to all activities of the government of the Virgin Islands, and shall be in addition to the authority conferred upon the Inspector General by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (92 Stat. 1101), as amended.

(c) Transfer of personnel, assets, etc., of office of government comptroller for Virgin Islands to Office of Inspector General, Department of the Interior

In order to carry out the provisions of this section, the personnel, assets, liabilities, contracts,

property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed, held, used, arising from, available or to be made available, of the office of the government comptroller for the Virgin Islands related to its audit function are hereby transferred to the Office of Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

(July 22, 1954, ch. 558, §17, as added Pub. L. 97-357, title III, §309(b), Oct. 19, 1982, 96 Stat. 1710.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 95-452, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1101, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1599, acts July 22, 1954, ch. 558, §17, 68 Stat. 505; Aug. 28, 1958, Pub. L. 85-851, §§4, 5, 72 Stat. 1094, 1095; Mar. 20, 1962, Pub. L. 87-421, 76 Stat. 43; Aug. 23, 1968, Pub. L. 90-496, §9, 82 Stat. 840; Oct. 15, 1977, Pub. L. 95-134, title III, §301(a), 91 Stat. 1162, related to appointment, status, and duties of the government comptroller for the Virgin Islands, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 97-357, §309(b).

SUBCHAPTER V—JUDICIAL BRANCH

§ 1611. District Court of Virgin Islands; local courts; jurisdiction; practice and procedure

(a) District Court of Virgin Islands; local courts

The judicial power of the Virgin Islands shall be vested in a court of record designated the "District Court of the Virgin Islands" established by Congress, and in such appellate court and lower local courts as may have been or may hereafter be established by local law.

(b) Jurisdiction

The legislature of the Virgin Islands may vest in the courts of the Virgin Islands established by local law jurisdiction over all causes in the Virgin Islands over which any court established by the Constitution and laws of the United States does not have exclusive jurisdiction. Such jurisdiction shall be subject to the concurrent jurisdiction conferred on the District Court of the Virgin Islands by section 1612(a) and (c) of this title.

(c) Practice and procedure

The rules governing the practice and procedure of the courts established by local law and those prescribing the qualifications and duties of the judges and officers thereof, oaths and bonds, and the times and places of holding court shall be governed by local law or the rules promulgated by those courts.

(July 22, 1954, ch. 558, §21, 68 Stat. 506; Pub. L. 98-454, title VII, §702, Oct. 5, 1984, 98 Stat. 1737.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-454 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted "established by Congress" before "and in such" and substituted "appellate court and lower local courts as may have been or may hereafter be established by local law" for "court or courts of inferior jurisdiction as have been or may hereafter be established by local law", and added subsecs. (b) and (c).